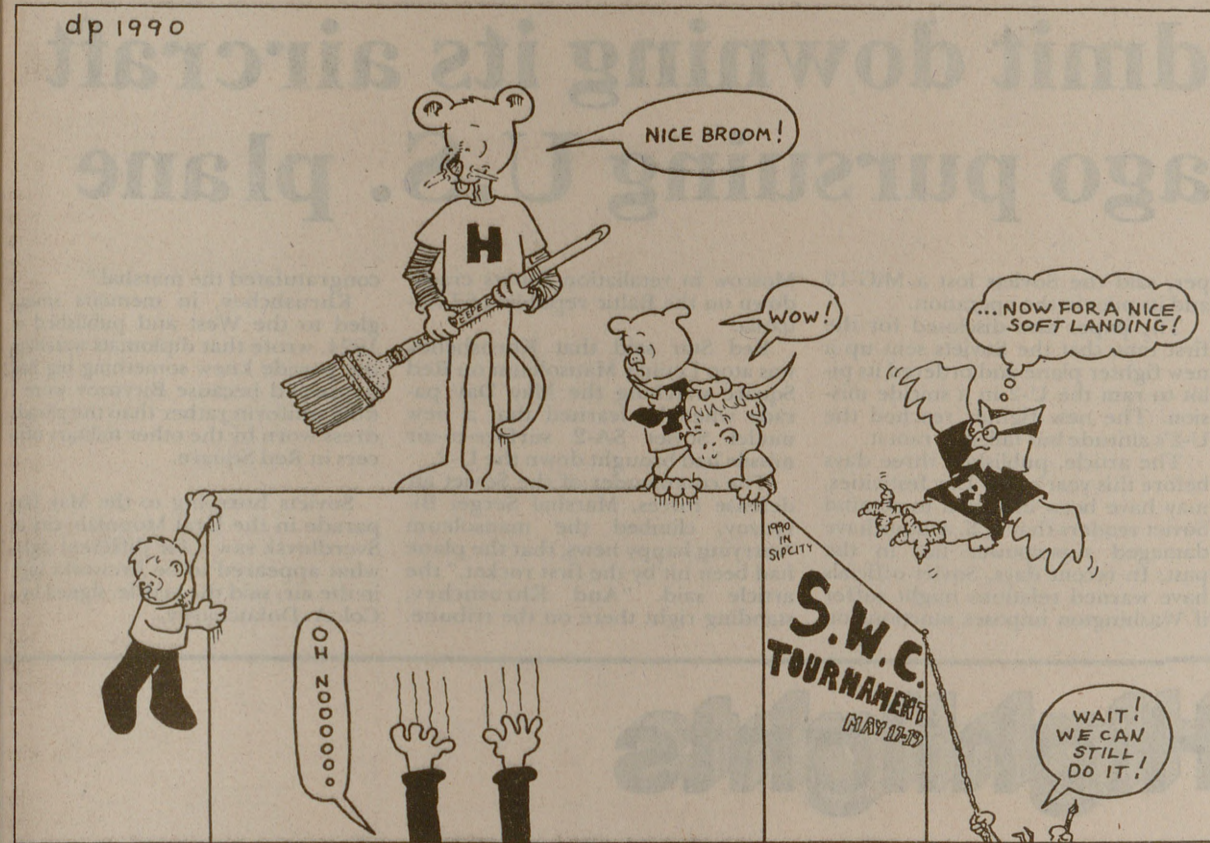


dp 1990



Catcher: 'It was like 'Twilight Zone' last night ... Texas League teams combine for 50 runs

MIDLAND (AP) — Midland Angels catcher Jeff Barns said he stopped trying to second-guess the pitches he had called early in his team's 33-17 loss Saturday night to the Wichita Wranglers.

"It was like 'Twilight Zone' last night," said Barns on Sunday. "They would turn two-strike pitches into hits on checked swings and broken bats — just little bloops over the infield. All I could think was, 'Now, what do I call?'"

Amazingly, the 50 runs scored by both teams wasn't even a league record. Seven years ago, Beaumont and El Paso combined for 56 runs.

But Saturday's game will be certainly one for the books, even if not for the record books.

The Wranglers batted around in four different innings as they went 28-for-57 for the game. Dan Walters had a grand slam in a 10-run third inning and finished with eight RBIs.

The Angels sent nine batters to the plate in the second and ninth innings in a 21-hit effort that would have won most any other game.

Midland's Mark Howie was the only starter

that did not get a base hit.

"I kind of felt left out," Howie said. "I hit five fly balls to center field, four of them real well. And I hit one backhand to short that he couldn't have got me on but he had a force at third. It was frustrating."

The Midland ballpark has regular dimensions and the sometimes strong West Texas wind was fairly light. So, players on both teams began scratching their heads in shock as the hits kept falling. Barns said at least six of the opponents' hits came on broken-bat singles.

"I went to our other catcher and said, 'Mike, is it me?'" Barns said.

The game lasted 4 hours and 15 minutes.

Right fielder Steve DeAngelis had to finish the game after Wichita wore out the first five Midland pitchers.

Wrangler starter Jeremy Hernandez got the victory despite giving up 12 hits and nine runs in five innings.

In the sixth, Wichita skipper Steve Lubratch

went to little-used reliever Steve Loubier, who checked in with an ERA of 18.78 (more than two runs per inning), and checked out by allowing eight hits and six earned runs.

Barns, one of the older players on the Angels' AA farm team at 26, said he knew something weird was going on when his teammate, Mark Davis, hit a towering pop fly into shallow center field.

"It goes straight up, only 15 or 25 feet behind the shortstop and he loses it," Barns recalled. "The outfielders lose it, too. It drops, all three runners score and Mark is standing there on second, and we're all thinking, 'Man, what is going on?'"

Barns said most of the crowd that started at 3,527 stayed until about the seventh inning.

"That's when it started getting real ugly," he said. "Our scoreboard only goes up to 20 runs, so it might have looked to someone that got there late like we were doing OK. We weren't."

Astros trade pitcher Kerfeld to lowly Braves

ATLANTA (AP) — Most major league players might frown on being traded to a cellar-dwelling team.

Not Charley Kerfeld.

"It's a great place to be," Kerfeld said Sunday after joining the Atlanta Braves. "They need pitching and I'm a pitcher."

The Braves acquired the 6-foot-7, 245-pound relief pitcher from the Houston Astros late Saturday night, a deal that sent the Astros minor league outfielder Kevin Dean and a player to be named later.

"I feel great about being here," he said. "Last place? Big deal. It can turn around."

Kerfeld strolled into the clubhouse shortly before the start of Sunday's 3-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies, a game in which Pete Smith pitched a complete-game six-hitter. Kerfeld did warm up briefly during the eighth inning.

Kerfeld had an 0-2 record with a whopping 16.20 ERA in five games with the Astros this year.

Bo returns to power Royals past Rangers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Bo Jackson returned to the Kansas City lineup and drove in a run and scored twice Sunday as the Royals beat the Texas Rangers 5-2 to end a six-game losing streak.

Jackson, who missed four games because of a family illness, helped Kansas City prevent Texas from its first-ever sweep at Royals Stadium.

Richard Dotson started for Kansas City in his 300th career appearance, but was knocked out after 4 2-3 innings and was charged with both Texas runs.

Jeff Montgomery (1-1) got the victory and Mark Davis pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Kenny Rogers (1-1) took the loss.

Texas lost for the second time in nine games.

The Royals took a 4-0 lead with two runs in the third and two more in the fourth.

Kevin Seitzer led off the third with a single, later scored on Jackson's two-out single and Mike Macfarlane hit an RBI double.

Bob Boone singled with one out in the fourth, took third on Steve Jeltz's double and scored as Seitzer grounded out.

First baseman Rafael Palmeiro muffed Kurt Stillwell's grounder for a two-base error, allowing Jeltz to score.

Geno Petralli doubled leading off the Texas fifth, moved to third on Jeff Huson's single and scored as Gary Pettis hit into a forceout.

Pettis scored on Palmeiro's double, bringing the Rangers within 4-2.

Jackson walked with two outs in the seventh, moved to third when Bobby Witt threw wildly on a pickoff try and scored on Macfarlane's single.

Everybody's playing the dot race Novelty threatening home run as fans' favorite

LAREDO (AP) — Born in Oklahoma City, raised and nurtured in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and now spreading across the baseball world is a threat to the home run.

The homer has long been the king of entertainment in baseball but a novelty known as the dot race is gaining popularity.

Oscar Villasenor, head football coach at Laredo Nixon High School, saw the dot race for the first time on a recent weekend when he took his sons, Rene and Okie, to Arlington to see the Texas Rangers play the New York Yankees.

The dots only appear once a game. Late in the game, between innings, electronic dots of green, red and yellow race around a

course outlined on a scoreboard screen.

The excitement generated by those gigantic racing spheres is spreading, but it still catches the first-time viewer by surprise.

"I didn't know what was going on. Then I looked up and everybody was clapping, yelling and saying, 'The dot game,'" said Rene, a junior on the Laredo Nixon baseball team.

"It was something to get into. It was my first time (to see the dot game). I had never heard anything. Everybody clapped and it was fun," Rene said.

"There are just three dots on the screen but they tell you do not bet," Oscar said, laughing away the impossibility of the request. "You can pick the yellow, green

or red. Everybody gets into it.

"'Beta a dollar,' they say. 'Ten dollars on the green' and the people are all yelling."

"It was my first time. I picked green on Saturday and yellow on Sunday (both winners). Too bad I wasn't betting a million dollars. They hide the ending then announce it."

Chuck Morgan, public address announcer for the Rangers' home games, brought the Dot Game to Arlington Stadium.

"It came from Oklahoma City. I saw one with two lights. It took about a month to get it ready on our four-color video board. We've had it since 1986," Morgan said.

"Probably eight or nine (major league) teams have it now."

Game

(Continued from page 9)

the plate. Sweet picked up the loss when the Aggie bats could not muster any runs in the final inning.

In the seventh, Johnson brought in hard-hitting Dan Robinson to pinch-hit for John Wood, who had earlier knocked in two runs on two hits.

Robinson walked in his first at bat since the Missouri series in March, when he broke his jaw in a collision with Witte.

Robinson said it was a great feeling to get on base. He said he felt no jitters because he had lost the memory of the accident. Robinson also played in the third game of the series.

The crowd awaiting the start of Friday's game had to be evacuated

from the stadium after tornadoes were spotted just miles west of the field.

The game was delayed one hour by the storm, which left strong north winds that blew in from center field, making it difficult for batters to get a hit past the infield.

Houston scored the only run of the game in the fourth inning when Wambach grounded out to second base for the first out of the inning, scoring a runner from third base.

In the sixth, Aggie third baseman Travis Williams got A&M out of a jam when he dove for a ground ball headed down the third base line.

With runners on first and second, Williams stopped the ball, stepped on third for the second out and threw to first to end the inning.

Houston pitcher Darter kept Aggie batters off balance all night, allowing only three hits and recording eight strikeouts.

A&M pitcher Ronnie Allen com-

pleted the game and took the loss, giving up seven hits and striking out three Cougars to move his record to 6-3.

Johnson said Allen threw a good game and got the team out of a lot of jams, but the Aggies couldn't get the ground balls and the percentages to fall in when the team needed them.

"It's hard to get an offense going with the north wind blowing in," he said.

Arkansas took two of three games from the Longhorns last weekend in Austin to claim first place in the conference by a half game. A&M's chances of a post-season tournament spot depend on its performance in next weekend's series with the Razorbacks.

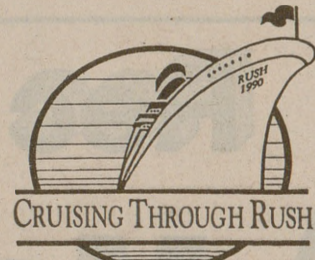
"Arkansas is playing well," Johnson said. "We're playing them in their home field, so the scenario is not a real pleasant one."

"The only thing we can look at is we have to control our own destiny."

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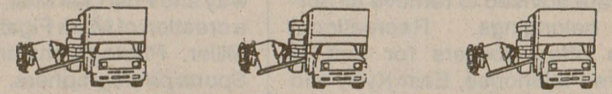


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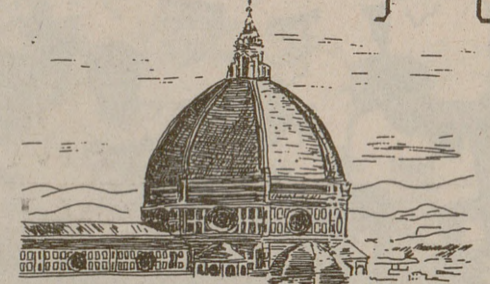
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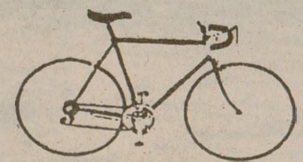
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